

It was five years ago that al Qaeda terrorists flew three commercial airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing 2,933 innocent people and forever changing the way we view our dangerous world. 40 more innocent people died when a fourth airliner, United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in a field outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The United flight was on its way to Washington D.C. and believed to be targeting the Capitol. Both the Capitol and the White House were evacuated, or at least partially so. Some people, including the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, our own Congressman Bob Stump, refused to leave.

Stump, who was a World War II veteran and didn't scare easily, told the Capitol Hill Police that he had no intention of evacuating his office or allowing the terrorists to shut down the United States Congress.

And Bob was not the only one who felt that way.

Within minutes of the evacuation order, Congressman Jim Saxton of New Jersey showed up at Stump's office along with one of his staffers. Saxton, who is now the Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, chaired one of Bob's subcommittees and was there to see what his chairman's wishes were. They were soon joined by Congressman Duncan Hunter of California, also a subcommittee chairman who was also "checking in."

Saxton and Stump, along with that staff which decided to stay, stood by in Stump's office, established contact with other members of the Committee by phone, and while smoke was still pouring from the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, they started to work on redesigning our military to meet the new threats of our new world. Assorted staffers straggled-in, and at least in one part of the Capitol that day, the "People's business" was carried on.

While Bob Stump was a brave man, he would be the first to tell you that what he and the others did was not an act of bravery, but of *defiance*. They simply did not want the terrorists to force them out of one building, while brave first responders in New York, and those just across the river, were fighting to get into others.

We now know of the bravery of the United 93 passengers, and of thousands of other acts of bravery that day. We know that the terrorists targeted our country's economic, military and political strengths in their choice of targets. And we know now- they failed. And they will continue to fail as long as America remains brave, *and defiant*.